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sented library topics at library club meetings in two cities, opened one free public lecture course with a library address, participated in the dedicatory exercises of one library building and in the inaugural exercises of one state university president. Requests to assist at two state library association meetings were received in the last two months which could not be accepted and a request is now on file at the Executive office for representation at a library meeting in Arkansas when efforts will be made in January to organize a state library association.

Since the beginning of the present year the Secretary has endeavored to build up the Association membership in order to bring more librarians into touch with that organization and through their financial support to make the Association's work more effective. A year ago the total membership of the Association aggregated 1835. At present the membership is 2018, a net increase of 183. Of the total membership, 279 are institutional members, an increase of 68 during the year. The annual dues of these 68 members alone means an increase of \$340 in the Association's financial resources.

A difficulty in maintaining a large membership is the number of library workers who allow their memberships to lapse after one year. They appreciate the special advantages obtained as members at an annual conference but seemingly fail to realize that some of the greatest benefits received through the A. L. A. come indirectly. The number of library workers who have withdrawn from membership since the A. L. A. was established greatly exceeds the total enrollment at the present time. During those years it was to be expected that death and withdrawal would play havoc with the Association's membership, but in many recent years, the number of librarians who withdrew while continuing in the profession, has been sufficiently large to greatly reduce the net gains. In 1908, the net increase in membership was but two. This year 320 new members joined the Association and while the number who withdrew were 15 less

than a year ago, those who allowed their memberships to lapse numbered 137, although letters urging a continuance in the Association were sent to all of them.

While the work accomplished during the last year has been important, the A. L. A. and its Executive office never can realize their full possibilities unless financial support, more commensurate with the importance of the work is available. Although a membership of 2018 is gratifying, that enrollment is insignificant when compared with the large number of library workers eligible for membership, who are in the 2500 libraries of 5,000 volumes and over in the United States.

More members and more money should be the slogan for 1911 and greater results will be in evidence in 1912.

THE CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE, 1911

By unanimous vote of the Executive board of the American library association, Pasadena, California, has been selected as the place of the 1911 conference. After much consideration as to time, May 18 has been designated as the opening day of the conference. The choice of lower California for the next conference has met with general approval throughout the Association and has aroused great interest in California and the Pacific coast states. Cordial letters of welcome have been sent to the A. L. A. Executive office from many California library boards, chambers of commerce and other organizations.

Not only are the far western librarians anxious to avail themselves of the benefits which the conference will bring them but they desire this conference to redound to the advantage of the A. L. A. Already definite steps have been taken in California to increase in that state the membership of librarians in the A. L. A.

Plans for the trip to and from California are in the hands of the Travel committee of the Association. While details cannot be announced until later, librarians can be assured of a most interesting journey. There seems to be a general wish to stop

at the Grand Canyon in Arizona on the trip to California and to return by way of Denver where a number of librarians wish side trips to Colorado Springs, Yellowstone Park and other points of interest. Other librarians are already planning to visit the Yosemite and Portland before returning east.

THE A. L. A. AT STATE MEETINGS

Gratifying evidences of the interest of librarians in the American library association were shown this autumn in the requests which came to the Executive office for representation of the A. L. A. at state meetings. In some states the desire was for a general address on a general topic, in others definite assistance in library difficulties and in all, a stimulus of interest in the national library organization.

The Secretary of the A. L. A. was its representative at the N. Dakota library association meeting in September. He spoke on the State association and its work, at the normal school at Moorehead, and participated in the library trustees section which met in Fargo in connection with the state meeting. Mr. Hadley opened the Citizens free lecture course in Fargo with a library address and represented the A. L. A. at the inauguration of President MacVey of the University of North Dakota. The A. L. A. was one of twenty-five national organizations represented on this occasion.

At the Minnesota state meeting, Mr. Had-

ley spoke at a public meeting on the Place of the public library in the community, and later presented the question of the affiliation of state associations with the A. L. A. This question was presented also at the Illinois, Iowa and Kansas meetings. In addition Mr. Hadley spoke on the State association of librarians at the Iowa meeting and on the Work of a library commission, at the Kansas library association.

In addition to these meetings, the Secretary of the A. L. A. gave a sketch of its history before the Milwaukee library club, and a library talk before the students and teachers of the Wisconsin state normal school at Milwaukee. He participated in the dedicatory exercises of the Winnetka (Ill.) public library building.

Invitations to represent the Association at the Kentucky and North Carolina library meetings could not be accepted by the Secretary.

Mr. Henry E. Legler was designated to represent the A. L. A. at the meeting of the Nebraska library association where he gave an address on the Rural library.

The question has been raised as to whether the benefits derived from sending a representative to these state meetings justified the A. L. A. in bearing this expense. It may be of general interest to know that the A. L. A. was not put to one dollar of expense in sending representatives, as the various library associations visited believed the benefits received were sufficient to justify them in paying all expenses incident to the attendance of A. L. A. representatives.